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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/445,085	12/02/1999	KATSUTOSHI SAKAO	SONYJP3.3-0	9445

530 7590 03/29/2002

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EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/445,085	SAKAO ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Angela A. Armstrong	2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 1999 .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-46 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al (US Patent No. 6,199,076) in view of Schulhof et al (US Patent No. 5,841,979).

3. Regarding claims 1-46, Logan et al teaches processing received compressed data to enable output of signals with a plurality of output means as converting received digital signals to analog for use with a speaker (col. 4, lines 55-59) and storing the received data on a replaceable media (col. 7, lines 63-66)

decoding the compressed data as a stereo codec at col. 4, lines 55-56 compressed data of a plurality of contents at col 5, lines 55-col. 6, lines 5 in which Logan teaches that the compressed data consists of audio programs, announcements, text, image, advertising segments and program catalog information and col. 44, lines 5-48 in which Logan teaches of Audio Programming with HTML which allows for interactively browsing audio programs with synchronized images, conversion of HTML to synthetic speech, and viewing and printing of narrative text

selecting contents using a graphical user interface at col. 7, lines 26-34 receiving compressed digital data and additional information at col 5, lines 55-col. 6, lines 5, wherein the additional information includes images (col. 6, lines 1-3; col. 5, lines 55-59),

character information (col. 4, lines 46-50, col. 5, line 55 – col. 6, line 5), compressed tunes (col. 5, lines 55-63) and the audio data and additional information are distributed through digital broadcast (col. 40, lines 18-21)

storing information about the contents of the selection or down-loading at Figure 1, element 109 and Figure 4, elements 333 and 350

means for transmitting the information stored at Figure 4, elements 313, 315 and 317 and col. 27, line 40 continuing to col. 28, line 65.

Logan et al do not specifically teach an external storage device or outputting the received compressed data in the compressed state to the storage means. Refer to Schulhof et al, who teach a system of enhanced delivery of audio data which discloses digital audio file receipt, storage, digital-analog conversion and playback (col. 2, line 66- col. 3, line 1), allows for transmission via subscription/on-demand (col. 3, line 59), allows for transmission via broadcast distribution (col. 4, line 64-67), plurality of compression algorithms (col. 5, lines 10-26), external storage (col. 6, lines 4-6), digital text (col. 6, lines 32-33), storing the received compressed data in the compressed format (Abstract, col. 2, lines 57-63). Schulhof et al teach that the system allows for receipt and storage of audio files in compressed formats that can store several hours of normal audio programming in a medium of modest size (col. 2, lines 57-59).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the audio program player of Logan et al, to implement an external storage device and outputting the received compressed data in the compressed state to the storage means, as taught by Schulhof et al, for the purpose of allowing for receipt and storage of audio files in compressed

formats that can store several hours of normal audio programming in a medium of modest size, as suggested by Schulhof et al.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
5. Lau et al (US Patent No. 5,790,423) disclose an interactive audio transmission, receiving and playback system.
Ottesen et al (US Patent No. 5,654,747) disclose a set-top control method and apparatus for providing customer-selected multimedia programming on a per-per-view basis.
Schulhof et al. (US Patent No. 5,572,442) disclose a system for distributing subscription and on-demand audio programming)
Story (US Patent No. 5,541,638) discloses an apparatus for receiving user selected entertainment services of compressed digital and/or audio.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 703-308-6258. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on (703) 305-4379. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

AAA
March 22, 2002



TALIVALDIS IVARS SMITS
PRIMARY EXAMINER